

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 17 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 1 is a front view of the inventive beverage dispenser. As shown in Fig. 1, the beverage dispenser 10 is provided with a front door 17 for partially covering a front surface of a housing 11. As illustrated, there are selection button panels 14, 15 and 16 in the front door 17, and each of the selection button panels 14, 15 and 16 has a plurality of selection buttons for selecting kinds and/or amounts of beverages. In addition, a taking-in/out space 12, for a receptacle, opens in a lower part of the housing 11 while extending in the depth direction (i.e., the direction vertical to the paper surface). A receptacle stage 13 in which a receptacle 30, such as a paper cup is placed is provided at the lowermost end of the receptacle taking-in/out space 12. Further, a nozzle cover 18 is provided at the uppermost end of the taking-in/out space 12, whereby part of the interior of the taking-in/out space 12 is invisible from outside.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 22 through page 8, line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

As shown in Fig. 2, there is obstacle detection means 50 for detecting an obstacle on the lateral side of the receptacle taken-in/out space 12. The obstacle detection means 50 according to the present invention is an obstacle detection sensor including a light emitter 51 provided on the left side in the interior of the receptacle taking-in/out space 12 and a light receiver 52 provided on the right side in the interior of the receptacle taking-in/out space 12 at a position corresponding to the light emitter 51. As is apparent from Fig. 2, a line X connecting the light emitter 51 and the light receiver 52 to each other is positioned beneath the nozzles 27 and 28 of the beverage feeding section 26 and those, not shown, of the beverage feeding sections 24 and 25. The light emitter 51 and the light receiver 52 of the obstacle detection means 50 are normally

Appln No. 10/552,490
Amdt date March 20, 2008
Reply to Office action of December 26, 2007

covered with the nozzle cover 18 of the beverage dispenser 10 to be invisible by the operator (see Fig. 1). In this regard, in Fig. 2, the lower ends of the light emitter 51 and the light receiver 52 of the obstacle detection means 50 are located at positions corresponding to the lower end of the nozzle cover 18. Accordingly, as the nozzle cover 18 interferes with the access of the receptacle 30, such as a paper cup to the obstacle detection means 50, no reaction occurs in the obstacle detection means 50 when merely taking the receptacle into or out from the receptacle taking-in/out space 12 by the operator. On the other hand, if the operator inserts his hand into the receptacle taking-in/out space 12 and bends his fingers upward so as to exceed the line X to be closer to the nozzles 27 and 28, the obstacle detection means 50 operates.